



MANATABA MESSENGER

A Publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes

Volume VII Issue II

April, 2009

Laffoon voted back to Tribal Council seat

Pledges to focus on economic issues and work with new council members

Herman "TJ" Laffoon has reclaimed a seat on the CRIT Tribal Council by winning a special election held on February 13.

Laffoon will fill the seat of Daphne Hill-Poolaw, who was recalled in a December election. He defeated seven other candidates to regain the seat. Laffoon unsuccessfully ran as an incumbent in the December Tribal Council Election after serving several terms on the Council.

"We welcome TJ back to the Tribal Council," Enas said. "His experience and background will be valuable to all of us as we work to address the needs and challenges of the people of CRIT."

Laffoon said he was pleased to be back on the Tribal Council and thankful for the support of those who voted for him. He said his initial focus would be on helping to educate newer members of the Tribal Council on some of the major issues facing CRIT.

He said a primary focus will be on economic development and new business opportunities for the Tribes, including the use of federal economic stimulus dollars.

"It's exciting to have the chance to let people know we are working to generate new revenue for the Tribe," he said. "We're not just going to rely on the casino and agriculture — there are a lot of avenues we are looking at."

He said another area of focus for him will be examining the possibility of a solar power project, and potential improvements to power infrastructure that runs through Tribal lands.

Mega Throw celebrates culture



(Above) Starla Schaffer goes all out in the dance contest, where she took first place.

(Left) Guy Trujillo and his group from Pala, California sing Kupa Bird.

The Mega Throw V took place on March 21 at the Ahakhav Preserve.

The Mega Throw is a celebration of Mohave culture, music and heritage through the "preservation of the Bird Song and Dance through CRIT Mohave youth," according to organizers of the event.

Bird songs are songs sung socially by Mohaves, and most importantly, sung during funeral rites. The "Mega Throw" is named for the use of the traditional Mohave gourd.

More photos from these events will be featured in this issue.

Photos by Valerie Welsh-Tahbo

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New name picked for Wal-Mart center

"River People's Plaza" selected to be name for under-construction project

The CRIT Tribal Council has selected "River People's Plaza" as the new name for the Wal-Mart shopping center under construction in Parker.

The name was a combination of a couple of ideas that had been submitted to the Tribal Council as part of a contest.

The winner of the contest was local resident Rebecca Martinez, who received \$100 for her entry. CRIT also added a runner-up prize, which was won by local resident Thomas Price.

"It was fitting that we were able to find a way

to celebrate our heritage and culture in the name of this important new part of our community," said Tribal Chairman Eldred Enas. "The name is a reflection of what is unique and important about our people and the role the Colorado River plays in our lives."

The new shopping center is located on Highway 95 just south of the entrance to BlueWater Resort & Casino.

The Wal-Mart store will be about 100,000 square feet and include groceries and general merchandise. The center will include a variety of

Please see WAL-MART, Page 12

News & Information From Your Tribal Council



Eldred Enas,
Chairman



Wayne Patch, Sr.
Vice Chairman



Mervin Scott,
Jr., Secretary



Dennis Welsh, Jr.,
Treasurer



Valerie Welsh-
Tahbo



Richard
Armstrong



Johnny Hill, Jr.



Amanda Leivas-
Sharpe



Herman "TJ"
Laffoon

CRIT working diligently to get through difficult economic conditions

It’s not always an easy life on an Indian reservation during good economic times. CRIT and other tribes across the country are continually working to improve the quality of life for their members, because there’s so much to be done.

But in an economic downturn like the one our country — and the entire world — is experiencing right now, that job becomes even tougher.

Gaming revenue is down nationwide, and unfortunately, that trend is continuing at the BlueWater Resort & Casino. There’s less money available in the public and private sector for potential economic development opportunities. Tax receipts go down during times when people are pinching pennies.

And for many of us, the level of need for Tribal services goes up, thanks to a lack of work, cutbacks in services provided by other entities or other outside factors.

But the CRIT Tribal Government is working diligently to address all these factors and to try to make this economic downturn less painful for its members.

The BlueWater Resort & Casino continues to target visitors to the area, and is also working to tighten its budget to maximize revenues for CRIT.

CRIT also continues to pursue and examine other areas of economic development, including agriculture and industry.

The CRIT Tribal Government has scaled back where it can, but is still committed to providing key services to its members. And, it remains focused on finding ways to operate more efficiently.

And, Tribal officials have been working to obtain a share of federal economic stimulus dollars to fund key projects despite the economic downturn.

There are no silver bullets in a time like this. We all simply have to remain frugal, work hard and do what we need to do to survive this recession.

The steps being taken by CRIT will allow that to happen, and when the economy does recover, CRIT will as always be prepared to find the opportunities available to make our reservation a better place to live.

CRIT working to procure stimulus funding

Would use federal dollars for several key Tribal infrastructure projects

CRIT is actively working to garner federal economic stimulus funding from the federal government to pay for some key capital projects and new buildings.

The Obama administration and Congress passed a \$787 billion economic stimulus package in February, with a key provision of the bill going to fund “shovel ready” construction projects. CRIT is working on getting stimulus dollars for several key projects, including:

- Expansion of the CRIT Airport, for which \$1.8 million in federal funds have already been allocated.
- Construction of a juvenile detention facility, a long-time need for the Tribes.

- Improvements to Tribal roads and other public infrastructure.
- Funding to complete the construction of a new shelter home for those in domestic violence situations.

While it’s not known how many of these efforts will ultimately be successful, CRIT officials said any assistance is welcome to achieve some of these long-time goals.

“The stimulus package is a good opportunity for us to have the Federal Government pay for some critical projects that CRIT has been trying to fund for a long time,” said Tribal Chairman Eldred Enas. “It would take a lot of the burden off our revenue sources if we were able to find some of this one-time capital funding, so that we can focus on delivering services with the resources we do have available.”

CRIT looks to last parcels in La Paz Lands

In negotiations with State of Arizona over last two parcels within boundary

CRIT is in conversations with the Arizona State Land Department on a potential land swap that would allow the Tribes to recover the last acres of the La Paz Lands.

CRIT is focusing on two parcels along Interstate 10 that are now surrounded by CRIT lands since the return of the La Paz Lands in 2005. The two parcels are a combined 800 acres.

In 2005, the La Paz Lands, which make up a large portion of the southern CRIT Reservation, were returned to the Tribes via an act of Congress. The more than 15,000 acres were originally Tribal land but were taken by the Federal Government in the early 1900s.

“These two parcels are small, but they would close the door on a chapter of our history that

was righted by the La Paz Lands return a few years back,” said Tribal Chairman Eldred Enas.

“These parcels are the last piece of the puzzle to making our people whole again for the taking of this land in the first place. We appreciate the openness and consideration by State Land Commissioner Mark Winkleman and his staff so far.”

These two smaller parcels are controlled by the State Land Department, which oversees public lands in Arizona. CRIT officials have had good preliminary discussions with Winkleman about the return of the parcels, and the State has not indicated any major issues with the potential return.

Logistically, the State of Arizona would do a land swap with the Bureau of Land Management to obtain the parcels, and then would designate those parcels as part of the CRIT Reservation.

We want to hear from you!

The Manataba Messenger encourages letters to the editor. You may submit letters with a maximum of 250 words; letters longer than that will be edited for length. You are also encouraged to submit story ideas, anniversaries, birthdays and other announcements for publication.

Send letters and story ideas to:
26600 Mohave Road
Parker, AZ 85344

You may also e-mail letters to feedback@critonline.com

CRIT donates funds for van to local shelter



Tribal Councilman Mervin Scott, Jr. (left) and Tribal Chairman Eldred Enas (second from right) present Diana Mendoza, CRRCS Executive Director (right) and County Supervisor Sandy Norris Pierce (second from left) with a check to cover the cost of a new van for the Colorado River Regional Crisis Shelter.

Donation benefits organization that helps CRIT members, local residents

CRIT has donated the funds to the Colorado River Regional Crisis Shelter to purchase a new vehicle.

The Tribal Council voted in favor of a donation of just less than \$17,000 to allow the non-profit to replace its 12-year-old, non-functional van.

The organization uses the vehicle to transport families and victims of domestic violence; the staff had been forced to use personal vehicles instead.

Diana Mendoza, Executive Director of CRRCS, said in her request that because of the vehicle situations, access to transportation for CRIT members and local residents has been scaled back.

"Transportation to doctor appointments and school functions are given on an emergency basis only," she wrote.

"Currently, there is only one church in Parker that is available to help but we were recently told they were no longer willing to transport the women in our shelter."

CRIT has utilized the services of CRRCS since 1997.

There has been a long-standing collaboration with CRRCS and departments such as CRIT Police Department, CRIT Department of Health and Social Services and Indian Health Services.

In FY 2007, CRRCS served 37 Native American victims of domestic violence, which are made up of a majority of Native Americans residing on the Colorado River Indian Reservation.

"We understand as well as anyone the difficult economic times being faced by so many organizations, but wanted to make sure the victims of domestic violence in our community have resources at their disposal, including transportation."

**— Eldred Enas
Tribal Chairman**

CRRCS has identified a couple of potential vans at local car dealerships that would be a good fit for the organization, and submitted a request for a donation in January. The new vehicle will be identified as a donation by CRIT and the BlueWater Resort & Casino.

CRIT also recently approved a payment of about \$36,000 to cover the total cost of a vehicle for the Meals on Wheels Program to distribute food more effectively and improve its overall quality.

The vehicle includes such features as heaters, coolers, roll-out trays and other amenities that will improve food service.

"The CRIT Tribal Council feels that the Colorado River Regional Crisis Shelter is such an important part of our community that they were more than deserving of such assistance," said Tribal Chairman Eldred Enas.

"We understand as well as anyone the difficult economic times being faced by so many organizations, but wanted to make sure that the victims of domestic violence in our community have resources at their disposal, including transportation."

Upcoming Events

BlueWater Resort & Casino events

- The 8th Annual BlueWater Resort & Casino Indian Golf Tournament takes place on April 11-12. Native American players from Arizona, California, Nevada and New Mexico will play the four-star Emerald Canyon course and compete for over \$10,000 in prize money.

For more information or to sign up for the tournament please contact Stewart Eddy at (928) 669-2121, (928) 916-9039 or at seddy@redrivernet.com.

- On April 18-19, the Southern California Speedboat Club (SCSC) will present the BlueWater Resort & Casino 2009 Spring Classic. Race fans will be treated to an exciting two-day event watching championship boat racing, featuring some of the fastest boats in the nation. For more information, contact Ross Wallach at the Racing Hot Line at (310) 318-4012 or e-mail him at rossdbos26@yahoo.com.

- The weekend of April 24-26 is the 13th Annual Parker Open Golf Tournament. As one of the premier Arizona events, it draws over 160 contestants each year, and professionals and amateurs both will compete for over \$5,000 in prize money.

For more information or to register, please call Steve Benton at the Emerald Canyon Golf Course at (928) 667-3366.

- On May 2-3, the 2009 APBA Personal Water Craft National Tour Stop Rounds 1 & 2 comes to the BlueWater Resort & Casino.

Nearly 150 participants will attend and all races will be run in front of the River's Edge Cantina.

For more information on this event contact Ross Wallach at the information above.

- BlueWater Resort & Casino will hold its Cincy de Mayo celebration on May 5. Mariachi Esquelas, a three-piece mariachi group, will stroll the Casino floor between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., and the Marlon Martin Orchestra, a nine-piece meringue band specializing in Latino music and rhythms, will play in the Dig Lounge from 8 p.m. to midnight.

- Saturday, May 9 is the 2009 BlueWater Grand Prix, with BlueWater Resort & Casino hosting an event featuring motorcycles, quads and UTV's.

For more information on the BlueWater Gran Prix contact Best in the Desert at (702) 457-5775 or visit www.bith.com.

- On May 23, Great White and Skid Row will perform in the BlueWater Amphitheatre.

Great White has achieved worldwide success, with sales of over six million records, a Grammy Award nomination for the Best Hard Rock Performance for the song "Once Bitten, Twice Shy," and a double platinum certification for the album "Twice Shy."

The Skid Row debut album sold over five million copies in the USA along with a tour that took them around the world, and in 1992 the band released its second album "Slave To The Grind," which debuted at #1 on the Billboard charts, making them the first Heavy Metal/Hard Rock band to do so.

Gates open at 7 p.m. and the concert starts at 8 p.m. Tickets go on sale April 1 in the Gift

Please see EVENTS, Page 8

April photo contest entries feature the outdoors



Submit now, win in June

First place in the April 2009 Photo Contest went to Michelle Maughan for her photo of daughter Dailee Namoki Maughan playing in the leaves (above right). She will receive \$100.

Second place goes to Stella Baker for her photo of Johnny Kirk, Jr. and Conor Kinale at a fishing event (below right). She will receive \$50 for her entry.

Third place goes to Jolene Ameelyenah for her photo of sons Julian and Ethan Ameelyenah-Kinale at the Agnus River (above left). She will receive \$25.

Honorable mentions go to:

• Jonna Esquerra for her photo of mechanic Orlando McCabe, Jr. (middle left).

• Feather Evanston for her photo of niece Harmony Webster (bottom left).

• Tyler Eddy for his photo of his first hunting excursion with friend Reily Fisher (opposite page top).

• Fawn Begaye for her photo of her kids Chris Tahbo and Nizhoni Begaye having their first swim of the year (opposite page middle).

• Tonia Stone for her photo of Anthony Stone Jr. with a 68-pound Catfish he caught in the Colorado River (opposite page bottom).

The deadline for submissions for the June issue is May 15. You must be a tribal member, and no professional portraits are eligible. Send your picture to: *Manataba Messenger*, C/O Rose & Allyn, 7144 E. Stetson Drive Suite 400, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. Or, e-mail the entry to feedback@critonline.com.





CRIT Briefs

Easter Party at Ahakhav Preserve

The Ahakhav Preserve will host an Easter Party for Tribal members from 1 p.m. to dark on Sunday, April 12. The party will include an Easter egg hunt, hamburgers, hot dogs and sodas, and will be highlighted by an appearance from the Easter Bunny at 2 p.m.

NABI plans sporting events, Pow Wow

The Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) will hold the First Annual NABI “Chasing the Sun” 10K and Pow Wow on May 1-3 at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale.

The three-day event will celebrate all Native Americans and their cultures, tradition and will make history by becoming the first Pow Wow hosted in an NFL stadium.

On May 2, NABI will hold the “Chasing the Sun” 10K, a Native American-themed race designed to encourage the use of exercise in daily living. There will also be a family health walk of one mile. NABI will also hold the first all-Native American basketball tournament certified by the NCAA from July 7-11 at US Airways Center in Phoenix.

In addition, on July 12-16, NABI will host the Native American Baseball & Softball Tournament, at Chase Field in Downtown Phoenix. Registration is now open for both events. For more information, visit www.nabihoops.com.

CDO taking applications

The Career Development Office is now accepting Higher Education and Adult Vocational Training (AVT) applications for the 2009-2010 academic years.

The Higher Education Program is for students pursuing an Associates (Arts or Science), Bachelors, Masters or Doctorate degree. Qualified candidates will attend a community college or university.

The Adult Vocational Training (AVT) Program is for students pursuing a Certificate, Diploma or an Associate of Applied Science degree. Qualified candidates will attend a trade school or community college that offers certificate programs.

The application process takes 4-6 weeks to complete; therefore, it is important to begin immediately. There is an extensive list of documents needed to properly fill out the applications. For the comprehensive list of what's required, contact the Career Development Office at (800) 809-6207 or at www.crit-cdo.com.

The application deadline is June 30, 2009. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be accepted.

Training program seeks ages 16-24

CRIT Employment Development and Training Program is recruiting for the summer youth program, looking for 16-24 year olds. They can be juniors or seniors in high school or even if they've dropped out. Work will begin in June. For more info contact Kim Booth or Don Eddy at (928)669-8555.

— Birthdays & Announcements —

Birthdays

- Happy Birthday on January 4 to “Purdie” (Alena K. Lelvas). From: Auntie FaFa, boys, Uncle and Lynz.
- Happy belated Birthday on January 12 to Avis Whipple. From: Fa-Fa, Leon, James and Bow.
- Happy belated Birthday on January 12 to Auntie Ethie McCowan. From: Your niece Feather and Boyz.
- Happy belated Birthday on January 12 to Epraim McCowan. From: Auntie Feather and cousins Leon, James and Bow, and Uncle Cecil.
- Happy belated Birthday to my brother “Linz” Evanston. From: Your big sister Feather, Trina, baby Widdie, Purdie, James, Bow, Leon and Uncle.
- Happy Birthday on January 12 to Uncle Blake. From: Your nephew Leon Martin Evanston.
- Happy Birthday on January 13 to Uncle “Curtie.” From: Your nephew Leon Martin Evanston.
- Happy Birthday on February 4 to Lena Nez. From: Your big sis Fa-Fa and your nephews and Uncle Cecil.
- Happy Birthday on February 11 to Katrina Nez. From: Your big sis Fa-Fa, nephews, Uncle Cecil, your son Widdie and daughters Purdie and Linz.
- Happy Birthday on February 11 to Barry Martin. From: Your daughter Fa-Fa and Saa’maan.
- Happy Birthday on February 11 to Justice Drennan. From: Feather, Saa’mann and Boyz.
- Happy Birthday to my Widdie (William Leivas III) on March 4. From Auntie Fa-Fa and your cousins Leon, James, and Bow and Uncle.
- Happy belated Birthday on March 29 to my sweet husband Gabriel Begaye. 'Til death do us part sweetie. I love you. From: Fawn.
- Happy 19th Birthday on April 9 to my sister Raylene Ameelyenah. Have a good year and have fun on becoming a wonderful mother. Love, Jolene and your nephews Julian & Ethan.
- Happy 35th Birthday on April 17 to Tahwa Tahbo. From: Your cousin Fawn.
- Happy Birthday on April 20 to my dad Theodore Ameelyenah. Thanks for everything you do for us. We all love you unconditionally. Love, Jolene and grandsons Julian & Ethan.
- Happy 20th Birthday on April 21 to my brother Jarrod Ameelyenah. Hope you have a good year and take care. Stay out of Trouble. Love, Jolene and nephews Julian & Ethan.
- Happy Birthday on April 23 to Uncle Randy. Hope you have a great day. From Fawn and family.
- Happy 30th Birthday on April 24 to my little brother Taylor Rahm Tahbo. Welcome to the thirties. Wish you were here. Mad Love, Honmana.
- Happy 4th Birthday on April 26 to my baby Julian John Ameelyenah-Kinale. You mean everything to us and we are so grateful to have you in our lives. We all love you very much. Love, Mom, Denise and baby brother Ethan.
- Happy 18th Birthday on April 27 to my brother Michael Ameelyenah. Now you are

- officially an adult. Have fun through the years and stay out of trouble. Love, Jolene and nephews Julian & Ethan.
- Happy 12th Birthday on May 15 to Nicholis Shaun Ameelyenah! Keep your head up; we love you very much! Love, Mom and Dad!
 - Happy 13th Birthday on May 20 to our beautiful daughter, Nizhoni Anteya Begaye. No words could ever describe just how much we love you. From: Mom and Dad.
 - Happy 21st Birthday on May 20 to my brother Cooper Ameelyenah. Have fun on OUR birthday and don't get too crazy ... I wouldn't want to celebrate it with anybody else. Love, Jolene and nephews Julian & Ethan.
 - Happy Birthday on May 21 to my auntie Delores Ameelyenah. Thanks for always being there for us no matter what we all put you through. We love you very much. Love, Jolene and nephews Julian & Ethan.
 - Happy belated 12th Birthday to Devante Jackson (March 28) from Gramma and Granpa Jackson. We love you.
 - Happy belated 21st Birthday (March 17) to my baby brother Clarence Michael. I love you brother, with all my heart! Enjoy your day!!! Love, Sister.
 - Happy belated Birthday March 24 to Justin Marlon Howard-Ameelyenah! (aka White Owl). Keep them grades up! We are proud of you! Love, Mom & Dad!
 - Happy Birthday on May 15 to basketball All-Star Elias Jonathan Ameelyenah! You Rock! From: Your big 'cuz, Bino & Tamie
 - I would like to wish my boyfriend Kevin Toledo a very happy belated Birthday (March 12)! I love you and appreciate you babe! Thank you for all the fun memories we share together! Love always, Talisa Miller.
 - Happy Birthday to our children:
 - Vernon Short, 11 years old on April 16. From Mom & Dad
 - Tina Short, 22 years old on April 18. From Mom & Stoogie
 - Sean Raye Stone, 2 years old on April 18. From Grandpa Stoogie & Shelly
 - Joseph Stone, 19 years old on May 23. From Dad & Shelly
 - Happy Birthday to My Hubby: Anthony Stone Jr. / Stoogie. on June 19. Love Always Shelly
- Anniversaries**
- Happy 36th Anniversary on May 9 to Willy and Hollie Tahbo. We love you very much. From: Honmana and family, Tasha and Family, and Rahmo and family.
- In Memory Of...**
- Ellis Guy Howard, Sr.
 October 31, 1974-February 26, 2009
- With the recent passing of our beloved relative Ellis Guy Howard, Sr., the families of the Howard’s, Ameelyenah’s, Stone’s and Ursula Watchman would like to express their sincere appreciation for all who sent flowers, the people who prepared and assisted with food, the many

Bird Singers, and all who gave us their moral support during our time of mourning. We wish to thank the following people, and apologize if we omit names of those who provided valuable support of any kind: Pastor Raymond Solberg, Arnie Short, Pastor Sheldon Swick & Doris Johnson, Paul Queiros, Jr., Butch & Ruth Kewski, Helena Fisher, Chance Fisher, Terrance Moses, Sr., the Nazarene Church Choir, Francisco “Chico” Otanez, Mary Jose, George Wong, Justin Mike, Deborah Richards, Dorinda Short, VFW Post 7061 Men’s and Women’s Auxiliary, CRIT Fire Department, Jericho Way Ministries, Eldred Enas, Merving Scott, Jr., Henry Little, Mr. & Mrs. Van Ness, Sam Evanston, James Cuero, III, Vance and Rita Swick, Roxanne Fisher and Clorinda Nopah and Rudy Gonzales.

David Brian Carter
 April 13, 1965-May 15, 1990

As of May 19 you left this world 19 years ago, and not a day goes by that I don’t think of you. It seems like I talk about you at least once a day to someone. I always think of when we were little and all the crazy things you and I did together and of course all the trouble we got into. I remember we would always blame each other (that’s what brothers and sisters are for, to put the blame on one another). Sometimes I would see one of your friends and we would talk about all the crazy things you and your friends did. But mostly it would be about sports. Either it was about softball, baseball or basketball. As long as I can remember sports was always a big part of our family, but ever since you’ve been gone that became to be a big void in our lives. I wish you were still with us because you made our family complete.

Brother, what I do remember is the last time we saw each other. I can remember that so clearly like it was yesterday. It was on a Friday morning. I was on my way to work and pulled up to the stop sign on Mohave and Indian School Road waiting for the traffic to go by, then I saw Dad’s truck coming and I knew he was on his way to work and he was always giving someone a ride. As he was going by he honked and waved, as he passed there you were sitting in the back of the truck. It was like we made eye contact with each other because you smiled and your right hand went up to your right side of your face like you were going to salute me but it went to a wave. I then laughed and smiled and waved back to you. Who knew that was going to be the last time I would see my big brother alive. The only one who knew was God himself.

Even though it has been 19 years since you left us, the hurt is still there, but just as long as I have all our memories it doesn’t hurt that much. What I’m trying to say is, “I’m missing you brother.”

From your little sister, Candace Mari

You may send your submissions via e-mail to feedback@critonline.com.

Grants would boost Tribal services

CRIT hopes to tap Dept. of Justice monies for violence, drug programs

CRIT has applied for three Tribal Government grants from the U.S. Department of Justice in the hopes of offering improved services to victims of domestic violence, expanding CRIT’s juvenile detention center and helping individuals with drug and alcohol abuse issues.

Efforts to improve CRIT’s ability to handle and respond to issues of domestic violence, including sexual abuse and homicide, would be strengthened under the first grant, valued at \$334,200 for a two-year period.

The funds would allow the CRIT Human Resources Department to hire a Victim Advocate position, as well as a Victim Advocate administrative assistant, both of whom would be trained in matters relating to domestic violence and assault.

Once the advocacy office and its staff are established, an Advisory Committee would be formed of area women experienced with the issues of domestic violence.

The group would coordinate its services with local agencies, assist victims during the legal process and keep victims informed of their rights under the law.

The CRIT Police Department responded to 200 domestic violence calls during the first nine months of last year, and the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission has designated the reservation as a “High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area,” due to the production, trafficking and use of methamphetamine, which itself has increased the acts of violence against women.

Receipt of the grant will also strengthen the recently adopted CRIT Domestic and Family Violence Code, which acknowledges and works to deal with the problem of domestic violence in the community.

CRIT’s second grant hope is for its juvenile detention facility, and is aimed at renovating, remodeling and expanding the facility.

The grant, which totals \$500,000, would allow CRIT to bring the facility into compliance with Bureau of Indian Affairs standards for holding and housing of juveniles. Preliminary floor plans have been developed for review with the application and the CRIT is expected to provide \$50,000 in matching funds for the upgrade.

The renovations are expected to provide a more secure facility in which to hold juveniles taken into custody.

CRIT’s third application is for a three-year program aimed at treating alcohol and substance abuse problems faced by CRIT residents.

The \$300,000 grant would include ongoing training and technical assistance from the Bureau of Justice Assistance throughout the three-year period, and a Strategic Planning Advisory Board would be established to manage the grant funds.

The first year of the grant award would be aimed at developing a strategic plan, and the remaining two years would focus on implementation.

This grant would bring together CRIT Law Enforcement, the Department of Health Services, Behavioral health Services, the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program and the Office of the Attorney General.

Door-to-door work about to begin in county for census

Address canvassing scheduled to begin in early April; law enforcement aware

As part of the upcoming 2010 Census, address canvassing will begin in La Paz County in the early part of April.

The census is conducted by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of the Census. The census is a count of everyone living in the United States every 10 years. Participation in the census is required by law.

Census data are used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to provide, and to distribute \$300 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year.

Workers will soon begin going door-to-door in La Paz County documenting the existence of residences with the use of GPS hand-held computers. The workers will notify the occupants of any residences being surveyed of their presence on the property.

Law enforcement agencies in La Paz County have been advised that the census work is about to begin so that there are no miscommunication errors or situations where a property owner thinks a census worker might be trespassing.

Anyone with questions about the activities of Census workers in La Paz County may call Steve Mercado, Field Operations Supervisor, at (928) 941-9801.

Further census activities will be ongoing throughout the next year, including the distribution of questionnaires to U.S. citizens.

CRIT Library to offer computer classes, special events in busy April

April is a busy month at the CRIT Library, with a number of classes and special events.

Arts & Crafts

Adults and Children; April 15 and 16. Call Elvira at (928) 669-1332 to register.

FREE Computer Classes

The CRIT Library offers FREE classes in the Library computer training room. Please call (928) 669-1332 or 669-1333 to register. Space is limited so register today!

Basic Internet

When: April 6 at 9 a.m.; April 21 at 9 a.m.

Learn vocabulary, navigate between Web sites and find information.

Mouse and Keyboard Fundamentals

When: April 7 at 9 a.m.

Learn to navigate the Web with the mouse and keyboard.

Search Engines and Reference Resources

When: April 8 at 9 a.m.

Requires the ability to use a mouse and advance registration.

Basic E-mail

When: April 9 at 9 a.m.

Learn the basics of registering for an e-mail account with Yahoo.

Intermediate E-mail

When: April 20 at 9 a.m.

Teaches advanced features of Yahoo e-mail.

Microsoft Word Basics

When: April 22 at 9 a.m.

Learn simple toolbar functions, create/save documents, edit, save and print. Requires the ability to use a mouse.

Microsoft Word Intermediate

When: April 23 at 9 a.m.

Focuses on creating tabs and bullets. Requires the ability to use a mouse and an understanding of Microsoft Word.

Microsoft PowerPoint 2003: Advanced

When: April 27 and 28 at 9 a.m.

This two-session class teaches you how to add sound to PowerPoint using voice and pre-recorded CD music. Requires the ability to use a mouse, an understanding of PowerPoint and saving files.

Photoshop 6

When: April 29 and 30 at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Learn how to create a movie poster using this powerful software. Students must be able to use a mouse, save files, and be creative!

National Library Week

The CRIT Library will have the following

programs for National Library Week April 12-18.

April 13: “We Shall Remain” airs on Phoenix PBS station KAET-TV and is the largest “American Experience” series produced, focusing on American Indian history. Visit www.critlibrary.com for details.

April 17: 12-1 p.m.: Join us on the front lawn for live music and community information booths. We’ll have giveaways and free hot dogs. Bring your own lawn chairs.

Online Scavenger Hunt: During National Library Week visit our home page (www.critlibrary.com), where you will find a link on how to participate. Find the answers, then submit your entry to the Library or e-mail them to critlibrary@yahoo.com by midnight, April 16. Winners will be announced April 17 at the hot dog celebration.

Upcoming Summer Reading Program

In June, the Library will offer a Summer Reading Program for children. The Arizona State Parks has generously provided coupons for participating readers offering 50 percent off the day use fee or a “2 for 1” admission at Arizona State Parks (with the exception of Kartchner Caverns State Park.) Visit or call the Library at (928) 669-1332 to register your child.

MEET YOUR TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Laffoon pleased to return to Tribal Council, work with new members

Herman “TJ” Laffoon rejoined the CRIT Tribal Council in February after prevailing over seven other candidates to fill a spot vacated in a recall election.



Herman “TJ” Laffoon

Laffoon has served on the Tribal Council for more than 16 years. He said his priorities will be to work with the new Tribal Council members on key issues and to focus on economic development opportunities, including ones that would tap federal economic

stimulus dollars.

Laffoon submitted a written statement to the *Manataba Messenger* shortly after his election, which read as follows:

I would like to express my gratitude and heartfelt thanks to my community whom I have dedicated to serve unconditionally. Your trust and

“There are economic opportunities that would benefit our reservation that need to be pursued with planning and hard work. We also need to work within our community and on the state and national levels to accomplish these goals.”

— Herman “TJ” Laffoon
Tribal Council member

confidence in me comes at a time when change is echoed from our government leaders, right down to our own community. I have heard your message and will do my very best to carry on the mission with hard work and integrity to better serve our community.

There are economic opportunities that would benefit our reservation that need to be pursued with planning and hard work.

We also need to work within our community and on the state and national level to accomplish these goals.

Meetings and discussions on our issues and the impact of the present economic downturn will open doors for us in the future.

We have met with Senator John McCain to discuss our issues. We have met with the State Land Commission and relieved a positive outlook on new lands and opportunities for development. We travelled to Washington, D.C. to meet with our representatives and were honored to meet with President Obama’s Native American Liaison, Jodi A. Gillette.

These types of meetings and discussions will open doors for our future projects. We must be well versed on opportunities and work together to move the progress of our reservation forward.

My mission has always been and will continue to be one with an open door policy for new ideas that will better serve our community with special emphasis on our elders, our children and our veterans.

There is no task too big or too small that with your support we can’t accomplish. Once again I thank you for your support.

EVENTS,

From Page 3

Shop and are \$20 in advance and \$25 day of show.

Dig Lounge schedule

The following groups will be performing in the Dig Lounge in April and May, Wednesday through Saturday.

- April 1-4: “LA Lyon,” a female-fronted, three-piece band playing variety dance music, disco and Rhythm & Blues.
- April 8-11: “Chuy & Company,” a female-fronted, three-piece band playing a variety of Latino and Meringue music, classic rock and Top 40 Dance.
- April 15-18: “Pilot,” a female-fronted, three-piece band playing Rhythm & Blues, Top 40 dance, classic rock, old school and disco.
- April 22-25: “Desert Moon,” a female-fronted, three-piece band playing classic and today’s country and a bit of classic rock.
- April 29-May 2: “Swift Kick,” a female-fronted, three-piece band specializing in dance music along with selections from the 50s through the 90s.

- May 6-9: “Eclipse,” a female-fronted, three-piece band playing a wide variety of classic rock and Top 40 dance and a little Latino music.
- May 13-16: “Pilot.”
- May 20-24: “Swift Kick.”
- May 27-30: “High Lonesome Band,” a four-piece band playing a variety of classic rock, blues and classic country music.

Billy Joe Preston with Music n’ Motion will be in the Dig Lounge every Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. playing your favorite songs and videos and Karaoke each night.

Mohave language class a big success



Courtesy of the CRIT Library

In January, several CRIT members took part in Mohave language classes offered at the CRIT Library.

Students learned how to introduce themselves, terms for immediate family members, commands, local surroundings, and additional verbs.

Also included were lesson activities along with language revitalization awareness.

Those who participated were (from left to

right, sitting) Mizi Swick, Wilma Yazzie, and Joan Yazzie, and (from left to right, standing) Michale Swick, Juan Ruiz, Sheldon Swick, Valerie Swick, Veronica Diaz and Martha Alvarado. Not pictured is Nuecha Ruiz.

Amelia Flores and Mohave elder Sheldon Swick taught the classes.

For those who are interested, Mohave language classes will be offered again soon. For times and dates, please call the library at (928) 669-1332.



This map shows the location of the environmental cleanup effort upriver from CRIT at the Pacific Gas & Electric plant near Topock. (Information provided by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control).

More environmental trouble at Topock site

PG&E facility now found to contain levels of dangerous chemical Dioxin

Last month, CRIT was notified by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the US Department of Interior (DOI) that extremely high levels of the chemical contaminant Dioxin were found in the soils of the PG&E compressor station at Topock.

This soil contamination was exposed and located by DTSC in an area southeast of the Bat Cave Wash chromium contamination, which was reported in the last issue of the *Messenger*.

An emergency response is required because this contamination flows directly in to the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge and empties into the Colorado River.

Chemehuevi and CRIT are both downstream from Topock and are greatly concerned about possible contamination from PG&E. CRIT officials are closely monitoring the situation and participating in the ongoing cleanup planning.

Previously, PG&E had assured all concerned that only "trash" was burned in this location and there was no cause for concern.

Dioxin is a toxic substance that can cause a wide range of cancers and disrupt hormonal, reproductive and immune system functioning

leading to death in humans.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) there is no safe level of dioxin exposure.

If dioxin becomes air born, particles can travel long distances and be deposited far from where it originated. Compounds of the toxin can remain in the landscape for decades exposing populations to constant and repeated health threats. However, there is no evidence that Dioxin has affected anyone on the Reservation.

Because of the potential health issues, the Department of Interior is in the process of issuing an Emergency Response Memorandum to immediately stabilization and clean up this site.

However, compounding this clean-up effort is the fact that the site is located in a sacred and spiritual area for Mohave traditional believers.

PG&E has offered no comment on this recent exposure.

The environmental problems at the PG&E Topock Compressor Station have been snowballing for decades, and have involved real and substantially harmful effects to environmental health, community health, and cultural sites.

Regular updates on this issue will be provided in the *Manataba Messenger*.

Ellsbury prepares for potentially big Red Sox season

Tribal member expected to start in center field; Sox predicted to do well

CRIT Tribal member Jacoby Ellsbury is preparing once again for another big season with Major League Baseball's Boston Red Sox.

Ellsbury broke through in the major leagues two seasons ago, helping the Red Sox win the 2007 World Series.

Last year, he was a key member of the Sox and helped them reach Game 7 of the American League Championship Series.

With the departure of Red Sox outfielder Coco Crisp, who shared time in center field with Ellsbury, Ellsbury is now expected to truly become the team's every day starter in center.

Ellsbury told www.redsox.com, the team's official web site, that the stability should help his performance this season.

"The preparation isn't any different, but I think the mentality of knowing you're the everyday center fielder and just preparing for Opening Day makes it easier," Ellsbury said. "We had some injuries last year, so I moved over to help the team and had no problem with that. But I think playing every day, knowing where I'll be playing, that will help a lot."

Ellsbury hit .280 last year for the Red Sox, and had 50 stolen bases, numbers considered very solid for a rookie. During the offseason, he told redsox.com he has been working on his batting stroke to improve his overall performance.

"I feel confident going into the season," Ellsbury said. "

You know where they want to pitch you, what the patterns are. Your first year, you're learning the starters, you're learning the relievers, you're making adjustments. Now I have a better understanding of what they're trying to do."

As of March 28, Ellsbury was hitting .245 in his Spring Training games in Florida.

The Red Sox are picked by almost all baseball pundits to be near the top of the American League once again, battling with their traditional rivals the New York Yankees and last year's American League Champion Tampa Bay Rays.



Jacoby Ellsbury

Celebrate your graduate's achievements by recognizing them in the

MANATABA MESSENGER

The *Manataba Messenger* will run graduation announcements for those CRIT members graduating from elementary school, junior high, high school or college. You can make sure your favorite graduate is recognized by sending info to:

MANATABA MESSENGER

Route 1, Box 23-B Parker, AZ 85344

feedback@critonline.com

DEADLINE IS MAY 15!



Mega Throw V celebrates music, dance, heritage



(Above left) The younger participants at the Mega Throw get their chance to show their stuff.

(Above right) Chuck Esquerro participates in the Horse Shoe Tournament.

(Below left) The Mega Throw and its activities and performances brought together several generations.

Photos by Valerie Welsh-Tahbo

By Valerie Welsh-Tahbo

This year's theme (for the first time) was "Sing Your Hearts Out...with Respect", a silent tribute to the late Darwin Welsh, Jr. who was AseS'maav's biggest and beloved fan. His passing a year ago left these young singers with a legacy, to continue their efforts to be proud, to learn and more importantly to share.

The Skywalk Singers from the Hualapai nation, lead by Londo Quasula who opened the day's agenda. They were followed by members of the former AseS'maav Mohave Youth Singers. The reins were then handed over to Rez Life, led by Fort Mojave's "Johnny Ray." Roland Golding and Loren Levy followed, keeping the dancers from sitting down. Guy Truillo, of Pala, California and his boys were welcomed back after a two-year absence, and they provided Kupa style bird. Bo Bullchild and his associates chimed in, giving way to the dance contests.

Skywalk, Rez Life, and 2nd Avenue helped with the contest songs, beginning with the 0-11 year old boys and girls. The teen girls and women's dance contests were dedicated to the

late Louise Patch and Elvira Yazzie, two very enthusiastic supporters of AseS'maav from the very beginning, now sorely missed. Teen Boys and Men's Individual Singing competitions followed.

While the dance contests were in full swing, the horseshoe tournament got underway with 14 teams and a \$500.00 pot at stake. Defending champs from last year Randy and Richard Tahbo were defeated by a Ft. Mojave team, Leonard "Ziggy" McCord, Jr. and Jacob Knox.

The following awards were given: Youth All Around Male, to Londo Quasula for his efforts in leading the young bird singing group, Skywalk. Youth All Around Female, went to Starla Schaffer for her efforts in being one of the first ones dressed and ready to dance and stayed that way all day. The eldest furthest male traveling from Peach Springs was Benedict Beecher, who turned 88 that day, and 77-year-old Cecelia Lambeth, from Cedar City, Utah. Both received special gifts. A memorial was requested for the late Emmett Bender, Hualapai Elder/Singer who passed this year and was an annual attendee of the Mega Throw, requested by local elder/singer

Delano Carter.

Many thanks to the volunteer staff: L. Randy Tahbo, Timothy Stevens, Stephanie Enas, Sonia Stone, Alvin and Jolita Ameelyenah, Susan Welsh, George Wong, and Sharon Burton. Success of the event was attributed through sponsorship donations of the following: CRIT, Ahakaav Park Preserve (Jon Villalobos & staff), Blue Water Resort & Casino, CRIT Royalty Tayla Tahbo (Miss CRIT, Raffle Coordinator), Savannah Drennen (Little Miss, Welcome statement), and Christa Carter (Junior Miss), CRIT Recreation (Rena Van Fleet), Fiesta Trophies, CRIT Maintenance (Steve Eddy, Derrick Ameelyenah, and Staff), Colorado River Management Corporation, Big River Development (Ray Bernal), Big River RV Park (use of golf cart), Spakletts Water (for singers), Colorado River Building Materials, AhaQuinn, CRIT Sand & Rock, CRIT Utilities (watered roads and toters), CRIT Farms, CRIT Theatres, Hualapai Youth Council (Pot Luck servers and errand runners), CRIT Museum, CRIT Auto Shop, CRIT Education, and special appreciation to Mr. Stephan Scott — you are phenomenal.

Current CRIT Job Opportunities

The following are some of the jobs currently open with CRIT, courtesy of the Human Resources Department. For a full listing, visit www.critonline.com.

Position: Probation Officer
Department: Tribal Court
Salary: DOE
Close date: April 30, 2009

Position: Chief Probation Supervisor
Department: Tribal Court
Salary: DOE
Close date: April 30, 2009

Position: Patrol Officer (two positions)
Department: Law Enforcement
Salary: \$31,990-\$36,004 (\$15.38-\$17.31) DOE
Close date: Open until filled

Position: CRIT Farm Accountant
Department: CRIT Farms
Salary: DOE
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Community Health Representatives (multiple positions)
Department: DHS
Salary: \$8.00-\$10 per hour, DOE
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Director, Head Start
Department: CRIT Head Start
Salary: DOE
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Security Officer
Department: Law & Order
Salary: \$20,009 (\$9.62 p/hour)
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Community Health Educator
Department: DHS – Special Diabetes Program
Salary: \$38,000-\$42,000 (DOE)
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Child Welfare / ICWA Case Worker
Department: DHS – Social Services
Salary: \$11.00-\$14.00 (DOE)
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Health Educator
Department: DHS – Diabetes Prevention Program
Salary: \$35,000-\$45,000 (DOE)
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Driver / Custodian
Department: DHS – Senior Center
Salary: \$8.00-\$8.50
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Homemaker 1
Department: DHS – Senior Center
Salary: \$8.00-\$8.50
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Homemaker 2
Department: DHS – Senior Center
Salary: \$8.00-\$8.50
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Secretary / Case Aide
Department: DHS – Child Protective Services
Salary: \$8.50-\$11.00 (DOE)
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Secretary / Receptionist / Case Aide
Department: DHS – Office of Social Services
Salary: \$8.50-\$11.00 (DOE)
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Secretary / Receptionist
Department: DHS
Salary: \$10.00-\$11.00
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Tribal Public Defender
Salary: \$60,000-\$75,000
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Internal Auditor
Department: Internal Audit
Salary: DOE
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Park Maintenance Supervisor
Department: Aha Quin Mobile Home Park & Resort
Salary: DOE
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Maintenance Worker
Department: Aha Quin Mobile Home Park & Resort
Salary: DOE
Close date: Open until filled

Position: General Manager
Department: Colorado River Building Materials
Salary: Negotiable / Under Contract
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Sales Manager / Batch Plant Operator
Department: Colorado River Sand & Rock Enterprise
Salary: DOE
Close date: Open until filled

Position: General Manager
Department: Colorado River Sand & Rock Enterprise
Salary: DOE
Close date: Open until filled

To apply or for more information, contact CRIT Human Resources at 26600 Mohave Road, Parker, 85344, or call them at (928) 669-1321.

Four CRIT Police complete federal law certification

Will allow them to enforce federal statutes on Tribal lands when needed

Four CRIT Police officers recently participated in a recent training course led by federal prosecutors at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Phoenix that granted them special federal law enforcement authority in Indian Country.

All four officers successfully passed the examination, entitling them to receive Special Law Enforcement Certificate Card and Deputation to enforce federal law within CRIT.

The four officers are Randy Stewart, Deputy Chief of Police; Stuart Harper, Captain of Police; Laura Garcia, Police Officer; and Leslie Avis, Police Officer.

Overall approximately 250 officers from Arizona and California participated in the training program.

The Special Law Enforcement Certificate Card empowers Tribal police to make federal arrests, including misdemeanor and felony violations of federal law.

This increases the tools and protection available to officers to address areas as common as fire and dumping misdemeanor violations, on up to felonies including drug trafficking, child abuse and murder.

Additionally, assaults on these officers are prosecuted in federal court as misdemeanors.

The course included intensive segments on Indian Country jurisdiction, Indian Country crimes, federal court procedure, civil liability, child abuse and child abuse reporting, central violations bureau, juvenile process and procedure, drug and firearm laws and investigation of gang activities.

www.critonline.com

Breaking News & Updates

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We Want To Hear From You!

The *Manataba Messenger* is a publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.
 If you have a question, story idea, suggestion, letter to the editor or anything else you'd like to see in the *Manataba Messenger*, call or write us...

26600 Mohave Road
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Also, for a comprehensive listing of key tribal information, back issues of *The Manataba Messenger*, tourism information and other CRIT Tribal information, visit the Tribes' web site:

www.critonline.com

Don't forget the April photo contest!

Advertise With Us!

Now you can reach the 3,800 members of the Colorado River Indian Tribes directly. *Manataba Messenger*, the official publication of CRIT, is distributed by mail to all members and at newsstands at prominent locations throughout the Parker area, including the BlueWater Resort & Casino.
 For more information, please call (928) 669-1233 or 669-1223.

WAL-MART: CRIT working to lease out four parcels



Construction is well underway on River People's Plaza, the new Wal-Mart shopping center in Parker. This photo was taken in mid-March. The center should be completed by the end of the summer.

From Page 1

other stores as well.
 CRIT is currently working on leasing four parcels along Highway 95 as part of the project. CRIT is leading the effort so that it has control over the types of businesses that come into the community and can secure the revenue streams created from those stores.
 There have been no leases signed on the four parcels that front the road, but they have talked to several retailers that like to locate their businesses near Wal-Mart stores.
 Wal-Mart will account for 11 acres of the 23-acre shopping center site. CRIT will control the other 12 acres.
 Wal-Mart is scheduled to take possession of the building on June 8. Construction is on schedule for that date, and it will be probably six weeks afterward before they open the facility.
 The targeted opening date for the new Wal-Mart store is July 22, although that date is not 100 percent firm.
 Wal-Mart will be handling the hiring for the store in the coming months, but there is no information currently available on job openings or the application process.
 The new Wal-Mart store will be an economic shot in the arm by creating an estimated 200 new jobs and up to \$400,000 per year in sales tax revenue for CRIT, which will help fund youth, elder and other important Tribal programs.



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